BRITISH COLUMBIA

BC STATS

Service BC
Ministry of Labour & Citizens' Services

Infoline

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- **Median family income in BC increases to $47,200 in 2005**
- **2.6 million motor vehicles registered in the province last year**
- **Two out of five Canadian students repay loans five years after graduation**

Income

- **The median total income of British Columbia families (including families of two or more people as well as unattached individuals) increased 1.7% to $47,200 (constant 2005 dollars) in 2005.** This was slightly lower than the national median of $48,800. Median total income in the province has been below the national average since 1998, but the gap has begun to close.

  For the second year in a row, Alberta ($56,100) families had the highest median income in the country, while Ontario ($55,500) remained in second place. Incomes in the rest of the country ranged from $39,400 in Newfoundland to $45,400 in Manitoba.

  The median income is the income level that divides the top half of family income levels from the bottom half. Total income includes market income (earnings, investment, retirement and other income) as well as government transfers, including pensions (such as CPP and Old Age Security), Employment Insurance, workers' compensation benefits, social assistance and other transfers. *Data Source: SC, Catalogue 75-202-XIE*

- **Compared to other provinces, government transfers account for a relatively small share of total family income in BC.** The implicit government transfer rate (average government transfers as a percent of average total income) in the province was 10.9% in 2005, slightly below the national average (11.4%) and lower than in every province except Ontario (10.1%) and Alberta (7.9%). Newfoundland (20.9%) had the highest transfer rate, but families in other parts of Atlantic Canada were also quite dependent on transfers as a source of income.

  Data Source: SC, Catalogue 75-202-XIE

- **The median after-tax income for all families in BC rose 3.2% to $42,200 in 2005, which was only marginally lower than the national average ($42,700).** After tax income was highest in Alberta ($49,400) and Ontario ($48,100) and lowest in Newfoundland ($35,800).

  Data Source: SC, Catalogue 75-202-XIE

Aircraft Movement

- **Vancouver International Airport, the second-busiest airport in Canada, saw 322,514 take-offs and landings in 2006, virtually unchanged (-0.1%) from 2005.** Some airports in the province, such as Kelowna (+5.4%), saw increased traffic whereas others, like Victoria International (-3.6%), reported fewer flights. Nationally, Canadian airports with NAV CANADA air traffic control towers and flight service stations reported over 5.7 million aircraft movements in 2006, an increase of 2.0% over 2005.

  Source: Statistics Canada

Motor Vehicles

- **There were 2.6 million road motor vehicles registered in the province in 2006.** Of this total, 93% were passenger cars and light vehicles such as pickup trucks and minivans. The remainder consisted of 9,000 buses, nearly 45,000 motorcycles and mopeds, and about 120,000 truck tractors and trucks (weighing at least 4,500 kg). Nationwide, there were 20.1 million road motor vehicles registered last year. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

Student Loans

- **Two out of five students who graduated from a Canadian college or university in 2000 owing money for government student loans had repaid their student debt five years after graduation.** Forty-four percent of graduates from the

Report Migration Rates and the Age Composition of Interprovincial Movers

Did you know...
While waiting in line for service, 44% of British Columbians have read, 36% have sworn aloud, 5% have pushed in line and 4% have landed a date. *Source: Ipsos Canada*

class of 2000 left school owing money to government student loan programs. Of the student debtors who were still making payments in 2005, the average remaining debt was $8,900 for college grads, and approximately $14,000 for graduates with bachelor, master's or doctoral degrees. Not surprisingly, those who had managed to pay off their debts five years after graduation had started with a lower average debt at the time of graduation ($12,800 versus $19,400 for graduates still owing). Those who had repaid their loans also had an average income 20% higher than those who had not ($49,900 compared to $41,700 in 2004). College grads were more likely to have difficulty paying off their student loans than their degree-holding counterparts. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

E-Commerce

- **Online sales by Canadian organizations displayed robust double-digit growth for the fifth consecutive year in 2006.** Sales by private firms jumped 42% to nearly $47 billion, and those in the public sector rose 17% to over $3 billion.

  The proportion of Canadian firms using the Internet was relatively unchanged in recent years, though the share of businesses using a high speed connection grew to over 85% in 2006, up substantially from 48% in 2001. Forty-six percent of retail firms had a website in 2006, up from 42% in 2005.

  Wholesale trade, retail trade, transportation & warehousing and manufacturing were the four dominant sectors in the online marketplace. Wholesalers and transportation & warehousing companies accounted for a combined 36% of total online sales. Sales by manufacturers made up 14% of the total and retailers about 11%. Approximately 8% of Canadian firms sold online last year, and 45% made purchases online. Most (68%) e-commerce occurs between businesses as opposed to sales from a firm to an individual consumer. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

Immigrants

- **In 2005, most (84%) new immigrants had positive views of life in Canada and were content with their decision to immigrate.** About two-thirds of immigrants who had been in the country for just four years felt that Canada had lived up to their expectations. Despite the overall positive outlook, new immigrants listed finding adequate work (46%), and dealing with the language barrier (26%) as the biggest difficulties to overcome. The most commonly mentioned reasons for settling permanently in Canada included quality of life (32%), to be close to friends and family (20%), future family prospects (18%) and the peaceful nature of the country (9%). *Data Source: S.C. Cat. #89-624-XIVE*

The Nation

- **The Canadian economy picked up speed in February, expanding 0.4% *(seasonally adjusted)* after posting relatively slow growth (+0.1%) in the previous month.** The goods sector surged ahead 1.0% on the strength of big gains in utilities (+3.2%), mining, oil & gas extraction (+2.9%), and agriculture, forestry & fishing (+0.7%), together with a recovery in manufacturing (+0.3%)

  In the service sector (+0.2%), wholesale activities were up significantly (+1.0%) and information & cultural industries posted a 0.8% increase. However, retail trade was off 0.7%, and the transportation & warehousing industry stalled (-0.1%). *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Canadian manufacturers' prices climbed 4.8% in March compared to the same month in 2006, the highest rate of increase in over two years.** Primary metal products (+26.6%) continued to have the strongest influence on the Industrial Products Price Index (IPPI), while lumber & other wood products (-3.7%) offset part of the inflation. Prices for petroleum & coal products (+7.0%) were up significantly. The cost of raw materials surged 9.7%, boosted by a 50.8% jump in the price of non-ferrous metals.

  BC softwood lumber prices continued to fall (-4.2%). Interior (-8.8%) producers received substantially less for their products than in March of 2006, while Coastal mills saw prices rise (+8.0%). Meanwhile, prices for BC pulpwood chips soared (+55.4%). *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

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May 4, 2007

For data originating from Statistics Canada, data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the catalogue number.

Infoline Report

Issue: 07-18
May 04, 2007

Contact: Sarah Harrower (250) 387-0334
Originally published in *Migration Highlights* issue 06-4

Migration Rates and the Age Composition of Interprovincial Movers

The rates of interprovincial migration have changed over time. Generally, declines in overall rates of migration have been mirrored by declines in age-specific rates. However, the rates of younger age groups have maintained some buoyancy, and still represent the dominant populations for migration. In this Special Feature, the migration rates of B.C.'s age groups, and the age composition of overall net interprovincial migration flows across provinces will be examined.

British Columbia's net interprovincial migration rate, or the net number of individuals who moved per 1,000 population, has varied over time. As seen in Figure 1, before the late 1990s B.C. received, on net, more interprovincial in-migrants than out-migrants. Beginning in 1997, B.C. experienced a five-year period of negative net migration. On average, 3 individuals per 1,000 population in B.C. moved out each year over this period. However, recently B.C. has moved into positive territory again.

Decomposing the net migration rate to examine the interprovincial in and out migration rates separately, provides a clearer indication of underlying trends in migration patterns. Individuals living within B.C. have lower out-migration rates than thirty years ago. Figure 2 shows that over the July 31st 1971 to June 30th 1972 period, 21 per 1,000 population moved out of British Columbia[1]. In the recent 2004 to 2005 period approximately 11 individuals per 1,000 population chose to leave B.C. for other provinces[2]. However, in-migration rates have also declined. Starting from a level of 33 in-migrants per 1,000 population over 1971 to 1972, rates of migration have fallen to 13 in-migrants per 1,000 population in the 2004 to 2005 period[3].

Figure 1: British Columbia's Interprovincial Net Migration Rate

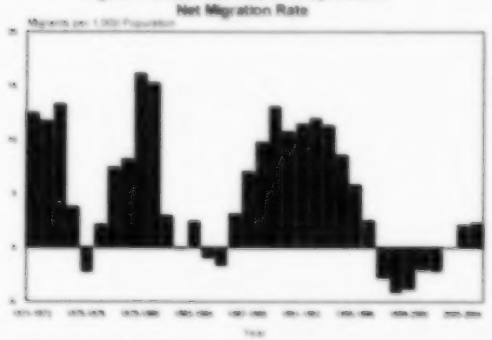
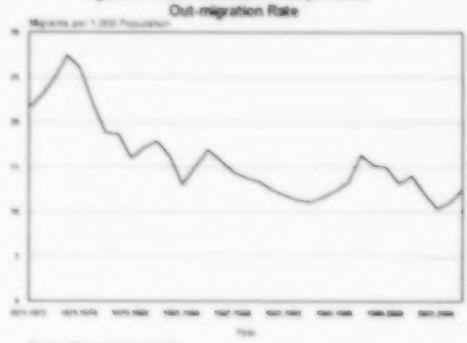


Figure 2: British Columbia's Interprovincial Out-migration Rate

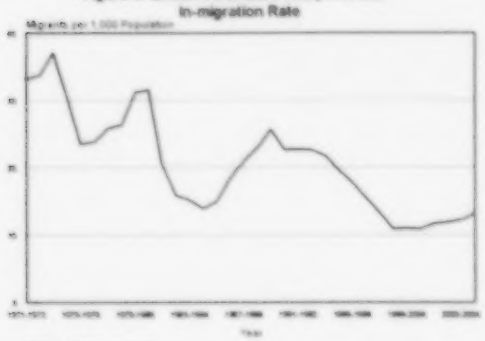


[1] Interprovincial out migration rates are expressed here as the number of individuals who moved out of the province over, for example, the July 1st 1971 to June 30th 1972 period, per 1,000 population as of July 1st 1971.

[2] Census year age –specific interprovincial migration estimates are obtained by Statistics Canada from tax-filer data. The most recent tax-filer age-specific estimates lag the current period by approximately one and a half to two and a half years.

[3] Interprovincial in-migration rates are expressed here as the number of individuals who moved out of the province over, for example, the July 1st 1971 to June 30th 1972 period, per 1,000 population as of July 31st 1972.

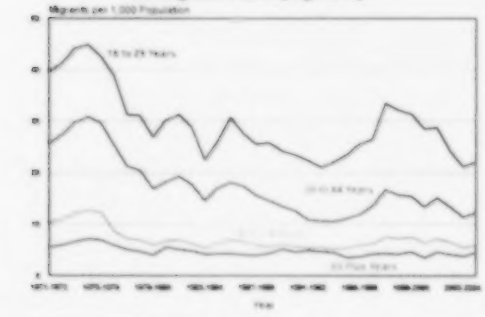
Figure 3: British Columbia's Interprovincial In-migration Rate



The decline in B.C.'s overall rate of interprovincial out-migration results from lower rates of out migration for all age groups. As seen in Figure 4, the rates of younger and middle aged individuals have both seen the largest drops. Between the 1971–1972 and 2004–2005 periods, out-migration rates fell from 39 to 24 persons per 1,000 for persons aged 18 to 29 years, and for individuals aged 30 to 44 years, rates have fallen from 25 to 13 out-migrants per 1,000 population.

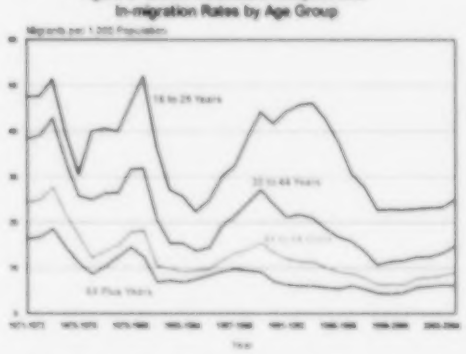
Interprovincial age-specific in-migration rates have been more variable than out-migration rates over the past 35 years. Between the years of 1984 to 1999, B.C. experienced a large increase in the rates of in-migration for individuals aged 18–29 years of age, as seen in Figure 5. Individuals aged 30 to 44 also migrated to B.C. from other provinces at higher rates over this period.

Figure 4: British Columbia's Interprovincial Out-migration Rates by Age Group



Overall, however, a clear downward trend in both out and in-migration rates and a convergence in the rates of older individuals has been seen.

Figure 5: British Columbia's Interprovincial In-migration Rates by Age Group



Despite this downward convergence of migration rates, the general aging of Canada's population has still allowed for a steadily increasing average age of inter-provincial migrants for BC. The average age of in-migrants from BC has increased from 27 to 32 years of age over the past 30 years. Further, the average age of interprovincial out-migrants has also increased from 24 to 39 years of age. In comparison, over the same period the average age of B.C.'s overall population has increased from 27 to 39 years of age. The net contribution interprovincial migrants have made to each age group of B.C.'s population is seen in Figure 6 for the years 1995–1996, 1999–2000 and 2004–2005. The high rates of in-migration of younger individuals over the 1984 to 1999 period are apparent through the large positive contribution to population this age group had in 1995–1996. In 1999–2000, B.C. lost individuals aged 50 years and younger to other provinces. Over the most recent 2004–2005 period, B.C. has experienced positive net interprovincial migration for individuals aged 20 years and above. Of the three periods presented, B.C. has consistently received, on net, a positive number of interprovincial migrants aged 60 years and older.

Figure 6: British Columbia Net Interprovincial Migrants

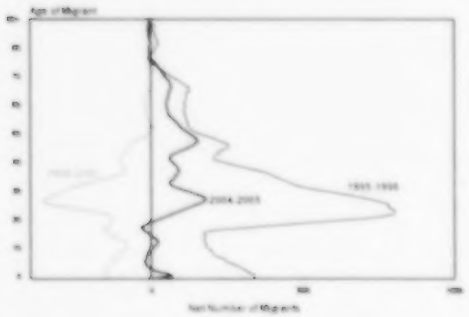
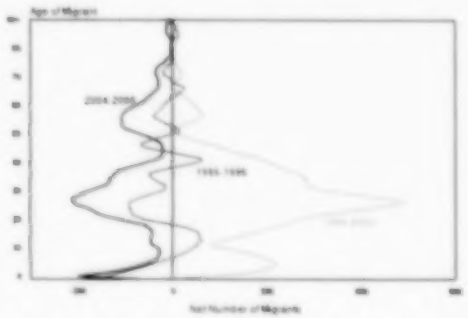
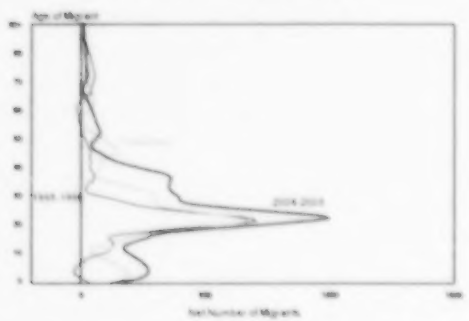


Figure 8: Ontario Net Interprovincial Migrants



Compared to other provinces, the age structure of BC's net-interprovincial migrants contrast starkly with the patterns of other areas. The vast majority of Alberta's population age groups experienced positive contributions from interprovincial migration for the three periods presented.

Figure 7: Alberta Net Interprovincial Migrants

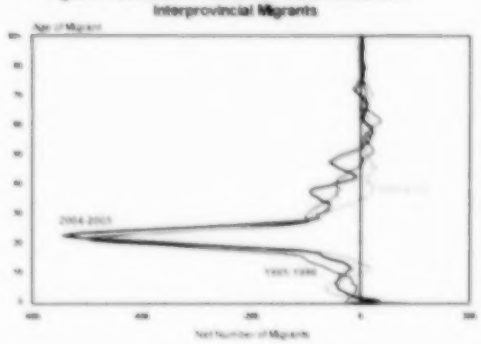


Ontario has experienced much the same variability in net migration flows as British Columbia for 1995–1996, 1999–2000 and 2004–2005, for the working-age populations. However, during periods where Ontario has received a positive net number of migrants, for example 1999–2000, B.C. has experienced a net outflow.

Finally, the reverse image of Alberta's age-specific pattern of interprovincial migration is seen for the Maritime Provinces and Newfoundland. This region consistently experienced out-migration of its younger populations over the periods presented.

Interprovincial migration is the result of, and important for, determining the health of local economies. While age-specific rates have declined over the past 30 years, a pattern also evident at the National level, those age groups that form key components of the overall labour pool continue to dominate interprovincial migrant flows. While some economies continue their recent patterns of attracting, or losing young workers, B.C.'s ability to gain workers depends on its relative attractiveness to other large economies in Canada. A factor that will be important if interprovincial migration is to help supplement B.C.'s labour market in the future.

Figure 9: Maritime Provinces and Newfoundland Net Interprovincial Migrants



Infoline

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BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Jan 1/07	% change on one year ago
BC	4,338.1	1.3
Canada	32,777.3	1.0
GDP and INCOME (Released Apr 25)		
(BC - at market prices)	2006	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	179,701	6.4
GDP *($ 1997 millions)*	150,741	3.6
GDP *($ 1997 per Capita)*	34,971	2.3
Personal Disposable Income *($ 1997 per Capita)*	21,984	4.8
TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Feb	3,424	-1.4
Merchandise Exports - Feb	2,642	-4.1
Retail Sales - Feb	4,551	0.4
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	% change on	12-month avg
(all items - Mar 2007)	one year ago	% change
BC	2.2	1.9
Vancouver	2.5	2.2
Victoria	1.9	1.6
Canada	2.3	1.9
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)	Mar '07	% change on prev. month
(seasonally adjusted)		
Labour Force - BC	2,357	0.4
Employed - BC	2,265	0.6
Unemployed - BC	92	-2.9
		Feb '07
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	3.9	4.0
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	6.1	6.1
INTEREST RATES (percent)	May 2/07	May 3/06
Prime Business Rate	6.00	5.75
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	6.60	6.25
- 5 year	6.64	6.75
US/CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	May 2/07	May 3/06
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $	1.1087	1.1072
US $ *(reciprocal of the closing rate)*	0.9020	0.9024
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE	Mar '07	% change on one year ago
(industrial aggregate - dollars)		
BC	743.18	3.5
Canada	735.11	1.9

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

Socio-Economic Profiles & Indices

The 2006 edition of these widely monitored reports provide the most complete and up-to-date basis for measuring and comparing the social and economic dimensions of regions in the province. Released April 4.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/sep/index.asp

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Released this week by BC STATS

- Business Indicators, April 2007
- Tourism Sector Monitor, April 2007

Next week

- Quarterly Regional Statistics, 1st Quarter 2007
- Exports, March 2007
- Labour Force Statistics, April 2007
- Earnings & Employment Trends, April 2007

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